

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1-38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) A method of inactivating the infectivity of a PrP protein, comprising the steps of:

contacting an infectious PrP protein with a composition comprising an acid component and an active component chosen from C<sub>10</sub> alkyl sulfate, sodium salt; C<sub>11</sub> alkyl sulfate, sodium salt; C<sub>12</sub> alkyl sulfate, sodium salt; C<sub>12</sub> alkyl sulfate, lithium salt; and C<sub>12</sub> alkyl sulfate, Tris salt;

maintaining the composition in contact with the infectious PrP protein at a pH in a range of from about 2.5 to about 4.5 with an acid chosen from acetic acid, lactic acid and peracetic acid at a temperature in a range of from about 37°C to about 140°C thereby rendering the infectious PrP protein completely non-infectious in 2.0 hours or less.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the composition is further comprised of a solvent.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the solvent is chosen from an aqueous solvent and an alcohol solvent.